New Orleans, La.
June 1, 1959

Dear Mr. Thompson and Members of the AHS:

Another year, another meeting and another NO from us here at New Orleans. So sorry none of us can get there. We are with you in spirit and hope the meeting is a very pleasant one. Some day, we will arrange for one or more of our members to attend.

We are doing very well with our Hibiscus Study Club. It still numbers 15 members as we are so very choosy. We just stucy - no arrangement or other extras.

At our last meeting, we went to three of the members gardens and those members desiring to do so, airlayered. Some of those done here at my garden are ready to pot in just three weeks.

Our next meeting will be at the City Park where we will tour the greenhouses. I went there a few weeks ago and the nomenclature is terrible. I luckily had my nomenclature list and corrected a few and helped name some that the tags had worn on. Where a few letters were visible and the plant was in bloom, it wasn't too difficult.

On August 5th, at 9 PM. I will be on the Educational Channel 8 WYES Station here in color and black and white. It is a 30 minute program and was thrilled to be asked. The program is gardening and held every second week. I will only discuss Hibiscus.

Here is where YOU come in. I need some seed pods badly. Just any old kind as long as they are Hibiscus. Last year I did an educational booth for the Federated Council of N. O. Garden Clubs and lost points due to not having seed pods or seed.

October the 22nd, Maison Blanche (our largest department store) will have a Flower Show. It is supposed to be the biggest ever held here and is in connection with their 50th Anniversary Celebration. There will

be ONE educational display, and I was invited to do it, so chose HIBISCUS of course and just must have the pods and seed to display. We are trying to set up a special one day show of Hibiscus only, within this tremendous show. I hope we can get their approval.

On September 9th, the Hibiscus Study Club will hold its SECOND Hibuscus Exhibit at the Peristyle at City Park. We can't have a real professional and standard show because I know for a fact that the judges here don't know too much about Hibiscus. So we have two real good judges who are true Horticulturists and they judge them as best they can according to the AHS rules, but do not really know how they should look.

I am sure some of our judges would like to go to one of your shows as a Junior Judge and get started so we could have real standard shows. Any chance of ever asking them?

One more thing, please. Can you tell us HOW you display your Hibiscus at the shows? We can't spend much for staging, but would like them to be displayed nicely.

Again I wish the best to you and all the members of the AHS and hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Bryon E. Dodd,
Director at Large

P.S.
If you see Mr. Harry Goulding, please tell him that of the 16 seed I kept from those he sent me last year 9 germinated in from 4 to 31 days. I measured them today. The smallest is 12" high and the tallest is 17 in high and they are branching very nicely. I hope to be able to report some bloom by the end of the summer and will keep him posted on what comes from the plants. They are all carefully labeled and I have a record of the parentage as he sent it.

Thanks,

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I am sure Mrs. Dodd would appreciate mail from any member who would care to send her staging information etc. - Ed.